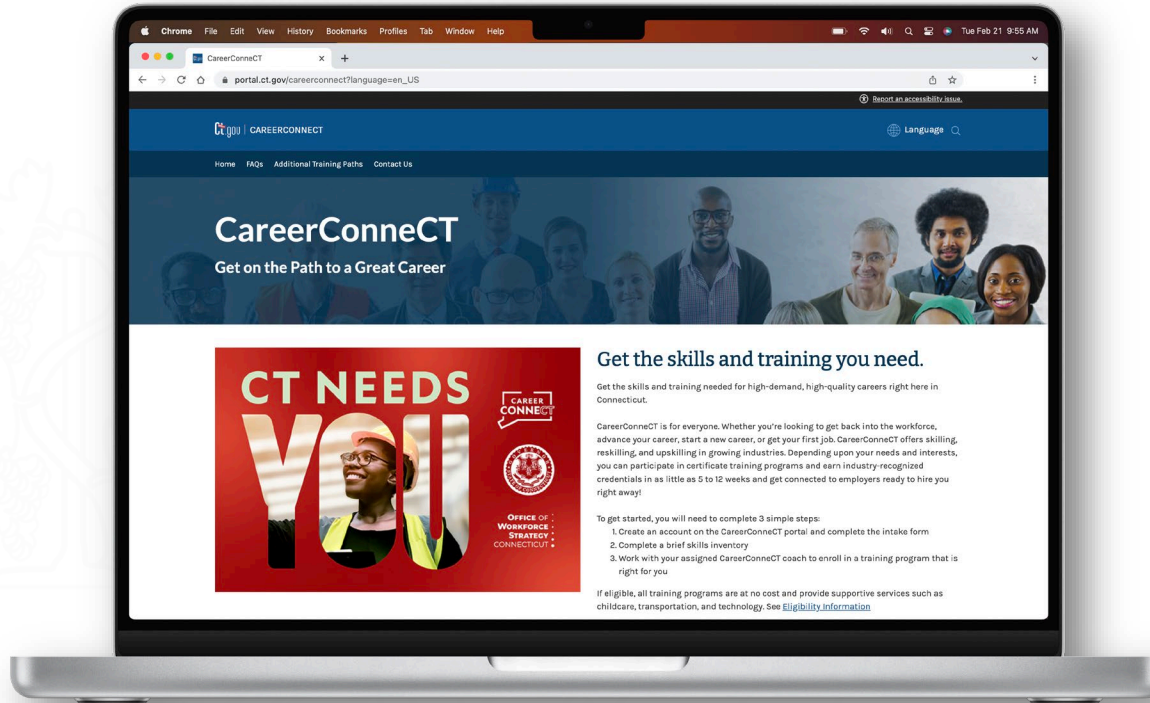


CareerConneCT

Karen Quesnel, CareerConneCT Grants & Contracts Specialist
Karen.Quesnel@ct.gov

CareerConneCT Overview

Virtual Front Door



Portal [ct.gov/careerconnect](https://portal.ct.gov/careerconnect)

Marketing Campaign

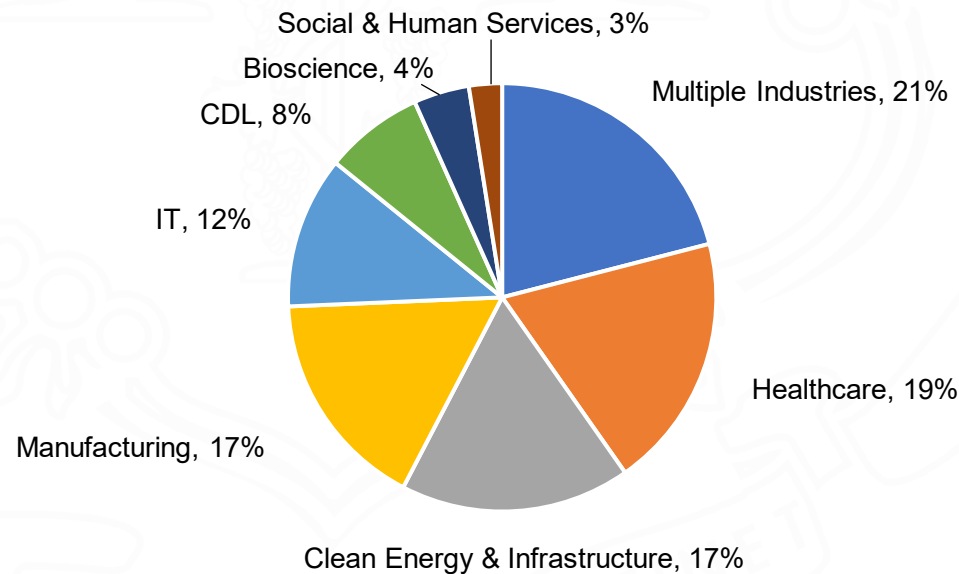


Email OWS.CareerConneCT@ct.gov

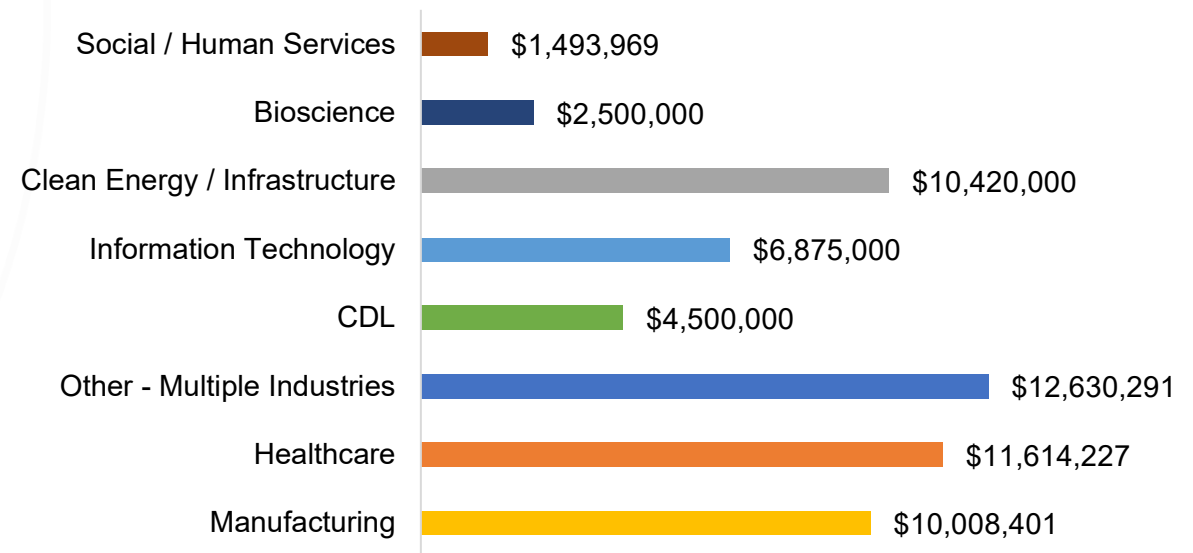
CareerConneCT is the Office of Workforce Strategy's flagship short-term training program initiative

Connecticut's \$70M investment using American Rescue Plan funds to train 6,000 unemployed and underemployed job seekers over three years for in-demand jobs

Percentage of Funds Allocated by Industry



Funds Allocated by Industry



CareerConneCT supports historically marginalized communities

Targets those most affected by the pandemic and those who have been historically underrepresented in the workforce.

BIPOC: IT, Construction, Green Energy, Healthcare, Manufacturing

People with Disabilities: Pre-requisite skills training prior to specific skills training, remote customer services, data management and internal supports in various industries

Re-Entry and Justice Involved: Healthcare, Manufacturing, IT, Construction, Green Energy, and CDL licenses

Youth: Defining career goals and aligning with employability and technical skills training including but not limited to, Digital life skills, Software Engineering, and web-development

Veterans: IT, Construction, Green Energy, Healthcare, Manufacturing

Refugee and Immigrant Women: Multiple Industries

This equity lens is embedded throughout CareerConneCT's program philosophy

CareerConneCT Program Goals

Implement a statewide, best practice, short-term workforce training systems approach

Empower, support and train 6,000 individuals in career pathways that lead to **industry-recognized credential** attainment, **living wages** and **career advancement**

Provide access to programs through a **single statewide recruitment portal**

Launch a comprehensive **marketing campaign to reach historically marginalized communities**

Track participant outcomes up to 12 quarters post-completion

Program Components

- **Skills inventory/assessment** required for every applicant to inform providers to **help participants where they need it**
- **Short-term certificate program** curriculum (4 to 24 weeks) designed with employer input
- Providers will deliver **full supportive services as needed** – Stipends, Transportation, Childcare, Housing, Technology, Accommodations, etc.
- **Employability skills training** embedded into all programs
- Program completers earn an **industry-recognized credentials**
- **Employer commitments to hire** = Job placement services and placements in entry to mid-level positions with career ladders for advancement

Eligibility and Documentation



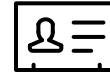
Eligibility

Prospective participants *must* be legally allowed to work in the United States

Unemployed: Without a paid job but available to work.

Underemployed: Not currently connected to a full-time job that pays at the same level of your education, skills, or wage and/or salary earned previously, or you have obtained only episodic, short-term, or part-time employment.

- May also include individuals currently employed but are seeking training for a job that provides better opportunities for career advancement and increased wages



Documentation

Prospective participants *must* be able to hold one of the following pieces of identification:

- Photo ID, such as a driver's license
- Proof of address, such as a piece of mail
- Social Security card
- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Green card
- Working papers

Industries and Program Providers



Helping Connecticut Thrive – Multiple Industries

To increase the available training opportunities to Connecticut residents, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested \$12,630, 291 into short-term training programs that intersect with one or more industry sectors.

- **ABILITY BEYOND DISABILITY:** Received a \$1,840,000 award to allow individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain valuable pre-requisite skills and certifications prior to participation in a training program run by the Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.
- **CAREER RESOURCES, INC:** Received a \$5,250,000 award to support the training justice-involved and re-entering individuals for careers in healthcare, technology, construction, and manufacturing.
- **HAVENLY, INC:** Received a \$1,870,638 award that creates a 6-month paid job training program aimed at creating opportunities for refugee and immigrant women in the Greater New Haven area to find stable, quality employment.
- **READYCT:** Received a \$3,000,000 award to support high school seniors/recent graduates define postsecondary career goals and immediately enter employment in a high-demand industry.
- **THE WORKPLACE, INC:** Received a \$669,608 award to assist the "RemoteWorks" program in preparing participants for an array of occupations in remote customer service, database management, internal support, and additional fields.

CareerConneCT's impact by 2025 will be 1,718 program completers and 2,518 industry-recognized credentials earned in across multiple industries.

Office of Workforce Strategy, 450 Capitol Avenue MS#53OWS, Hartford, CT 06106-1379

Infrastructure, Construction and Clean Energy



Helping Connecticut Build – Infrastructure, Construction, & Clean Energy

To help capitalize on investments into Connecticut's infrastructure such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested **\$10,420,000** into three innovative programs that helps train the next generation of workers.

- **CT BUILDING TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTE:** Received a \$3,640,000 investment to launch a statewide program providing construction readiness opportunities for individuals seeking a unionized building trades registered apprenticeship.
- **EFFICIENCY FOR ALL:** Received a \$2,000,000 investment to provide short-term job training opportunities for individuals looking to enter the energy efficiency industry.
- **NORTHWEST REGIONAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD:** Received a \$4,780,000 investment to expand existing and develop new programs in energy efficiency, solar power, offshore wind, energy management, OSHA training, and other related opportunities.



Helping Connecticut Heal – Healthcare

As Connecticut rebuilds after the Covid-19 pandemic, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested **\$11,614,227** into three short-term healthcare workforce readiness programs.

- **THE WORKPLACE, INC:** Received a \$7,500,000 investment to scale the Southwest Healthcare Career Academy statewide to train individuals in entry-level healthcare roles.
- **FAMILY CENTERS, INC:** Received a \$2,274,227 investment to develop the Pathways to Employment Growth (PEG) program that will train individuals for in-demand healthcare and information technology jobs in Southwest Connecticut.
- **CAREER RESOURCES, INC:** Received \$1,840,000 investment to sponsor an entry-level training program created directly by Waveny LifeCare Network to hire Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) directly into their healthcare system.

CareerConneCT's impact by 2025 will be **1,145 program completers** and **1,085 industry-recognized credentials** earned in the healthcare sector.

Manufacturing



Helping Connecticut Make – Manufacturing

To help recharge Connecticut's statewide economy, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested **\$10,008,401** into two short-term manufacturing training programs.

- **CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, INC:** Received a \$2,158,401 investment to target unemployed workers that need additional skills to enter the manufacturing workforce at higher level positions.
- **EASTERN WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD:** Received a \$7,850,000 investment to expand the nationally recognized Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative statewide to train individuals in entry-level manufacturing roles.

Information Technology



Helping Connecticut Digitize – Information Technology

To help prepare Connecticut's future workforce for the digital frontier, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested **\$6,875,000** into three information technology short-term training programs.

- **CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS:** Received a \$4,500,000 investment to provide statewide IT training focused on four core tracks including IT Support, Front-End Development, Information Security, and Network/Cloud Operations.
- **CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION:** Received a \$1,375,000 investment to train entry level workers in the field of Health Information Management to perform job functions in a Revenue Cycle Department of a hospital or other health care facilities.
- **DISTRICT ARTS AND EDUCATION:** Received a \$1,000,000 investment to provide high-school students with a foundation in digital life skills and a 12-month immersion experience in Software Engineering and Web Development.

Transportation – Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)



Helping Connecticut Move – Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)

To help get people back on the road and expand opportunities for Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) training, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested \$4,500,000 into one short-term training program for CDL training.

- **CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS:** Received a \$4,500,000 award to expand CDL training programming statewide and focus a portion of training dollars specifically on justice-involved and re-entering individuals.



Helping Connecticut Innovate – Bioscience

To help prepare Connecticut residents for the high-demand, high quality careers of Bioscience, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested **\$2,500,000** into the Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology's short-term training program BioLaunch.

- **CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY:** Received a \$2,500,000 award to stand-up an entry-level bioscience training that includes lab operations, compound management, laboratory animal husbandry, research support, and biomanufacturing.

Social and Human Services



Helping Connecticut Serve – Social and Human Services

To help support the critical social and human services workforce, the Office of Workforce Strategy invested **\$1,493,969** into Marrakech, Inc's Academy for Human Services Training (AHST).

- **MARRAKECH, INC:** Received a \$1,493,969 award to Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury focused program training individuals for roles in Community and Social Services / Human Services, Personal Services, and Office and Administrative Support.

Multiple Industries

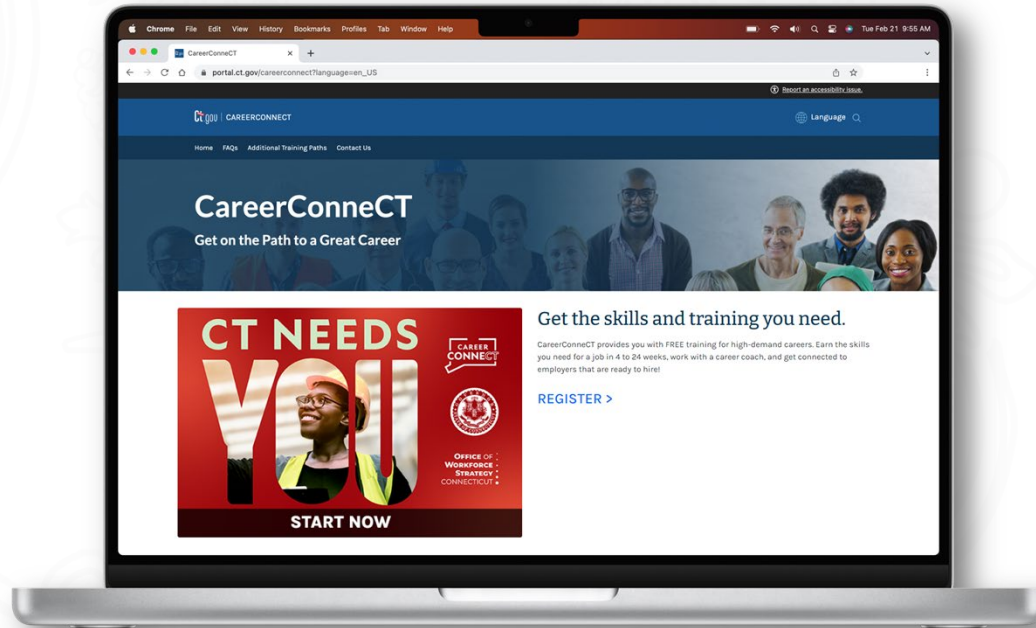


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Our CareerConneCT splash-page (ct.gov/careerconnect) is the user's first introduction to our program



<https://ct.gov/CareerConneCT>



- Built collaboratively with the Department of Administrative Services
- Area for eligibility information, answers to frequently asked questions, and links to other state resources
- The point of intersection for both the “You” and “Hearts and Minds” marketing campaigns between the Office of Workforce Strategy and the Office of Manufacturing
- Visitors can submit a question through our “Contact Us” page

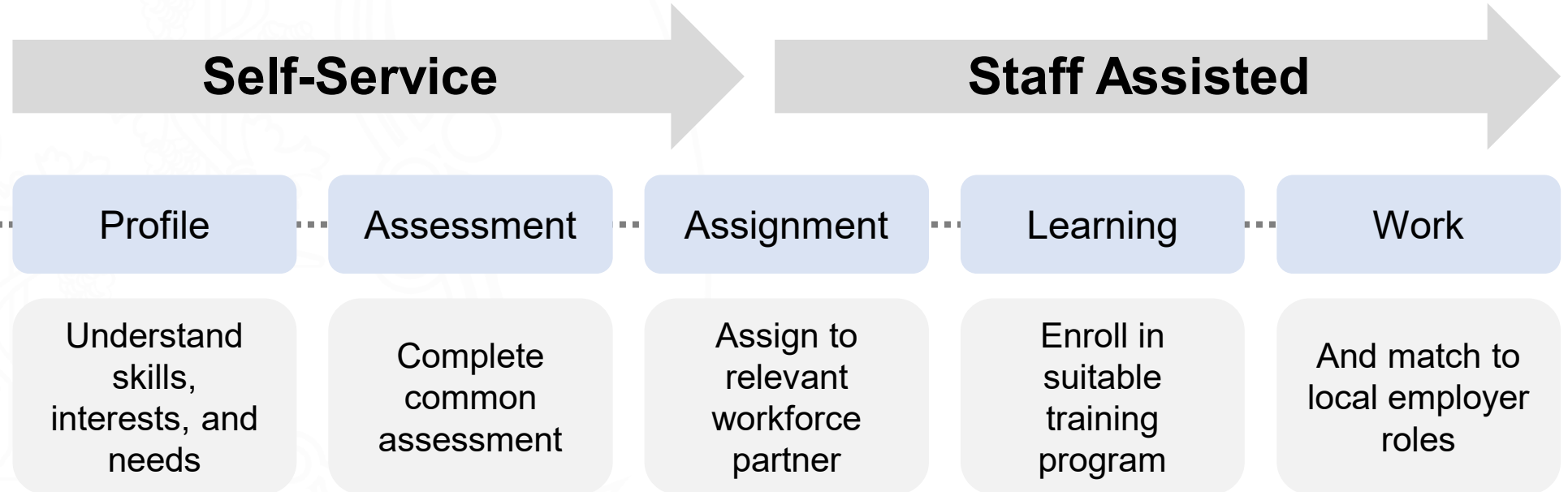
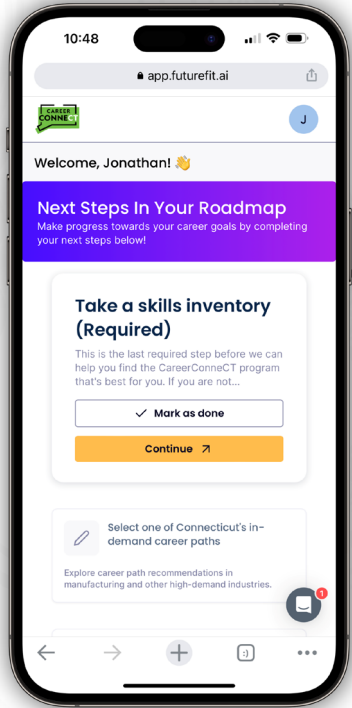
Success Stories

- Garry – participant of Ability Beyond’s *Ability Works* program
 - Unemployed, fully dependent on family for housing, socialization, transportation
 - Supportive services to build on health and stamina, adjust to routine, increase independence, acquire time management skills
 - Able to use para-transit daily to/from YMCA, on his own. Ability Beyond working on placing him on jobsite for training to enhance skills and build on his independence
- Elvin – participant of Eastern Workforce Investment Board’s Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative program
 - Working two jobs for low pay, seeking opportunity to learn a skill and work for an employer that offered career advancement and wage potential
 - Entered the Structural Metal Fabricator and Fitter class (Shipfitter) after receiving offer from Electric Boat.
 - Struggled in class at first, considered quitting at end of first week due to language barrier and struggles with math
 - Case manager, instructors, and supportive services provided
 - Completed training among the top of his class. Has a start date with Electric Boat

Success Stories (continued!)

- Maranyely (Grade 11) – participant of District Arts and Education’s *Skills Academy*
 - Launched an entrepreneurial endeavor making and selling jewelry
 - Created a website to showcase her wares
 - Currently working on a website about mental health awareness specifically tailored towards the Hispanic community.
 - Had no coding/web skills before enrolling in the DAE program
- Isaiah – participant of CT State Building Trades Training Institute
 - 20-year-old Bloomfield resident completed the Institute’s pre-employment construction preparation program and applied and was accepted into the Heat & Insulators registered apprenticeship training program.
 - Starting hourly rate as a first-year apprentice is \$22.29. He will have the opportunity to work at the Bloomfield Community Center project
- Bohdan – participant of CT State Building Trades Training Institute
 - 19-year-old displaced Ukrainian residing in New Britain.
 - Completed construction readiness program at the Ironworkers Local 15 and earned OSHA 10, CPR and First Aid,
 - Accepted into the Sheet Metal Workers Local 40 registered apprenticeship training program. His starting rate as a first-year apprentice is \$20.45/hr.

The CareerConneCT portal helps job seekers across Connecticut get connected to the most useful resources, training programs, and jobs



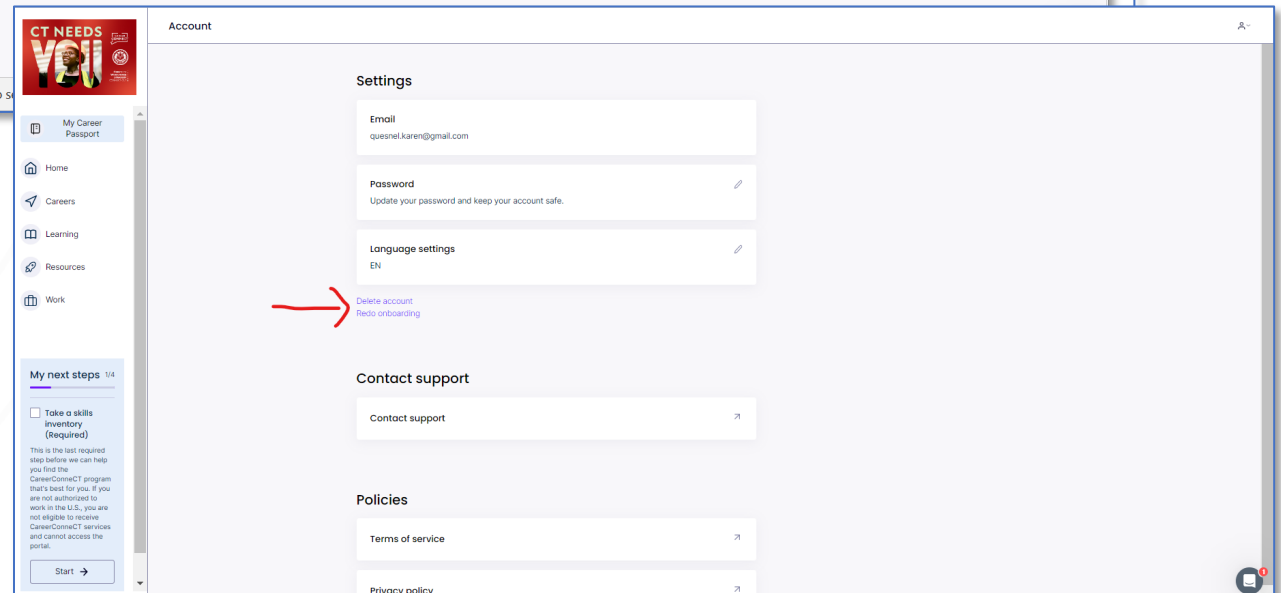
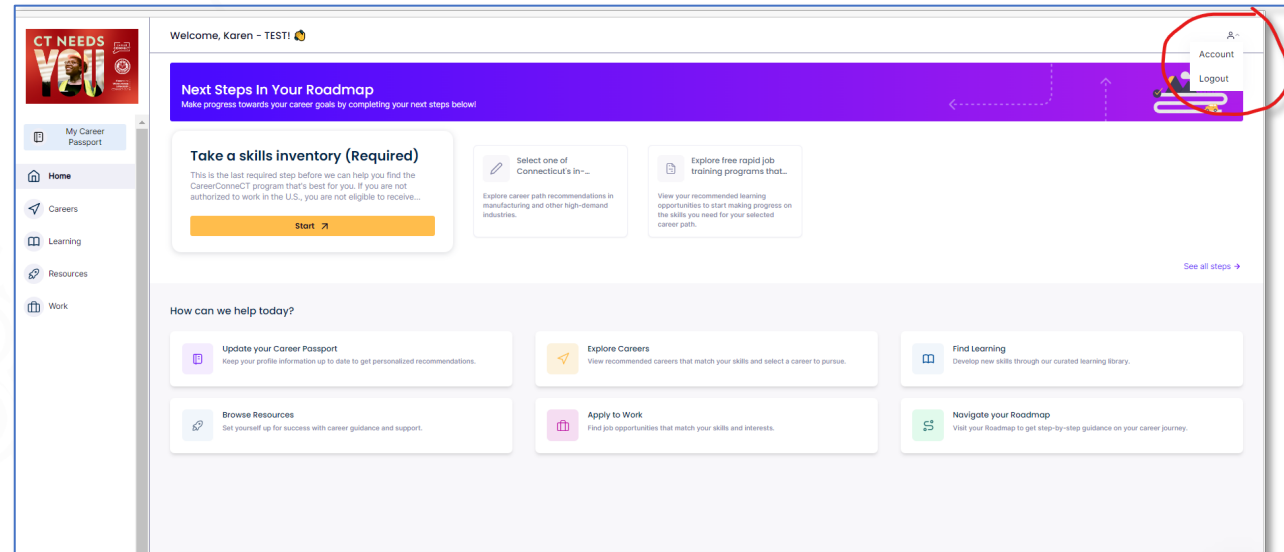
Create a Demonstration Account

- Access Portal from the Landing Page:
portal.ct.gov/CareerConneCT
- Create an Account using the word “TEST” after your first and last name
- Add a resume or add your own experience and education.
Explore!
- You can start over again! If you want to re-do your registration information or demonstrate the registration process with someone else

Reset your Registration Information in 3 Easy Steps

1. Sign in and access your Account from the drop down list
2. Click on “Redo Onboarding”
3. Complete your new Profile Information and explore Careers, Learning, Resources and Work.

Your login information remains the same but all other profile information resets



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CAREERCONNECT NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter from the Office of Workforce Strategy

Vol. 1, Issue 2

April 2023



Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ph.D.
Chief Workforce Officer

Greetings from the Chief Workforce Officer, Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres

I am delighted to present our second issue of CareerConneCT News! Another quarter has come to a close, with more than 4,000 individuals registered in the CareerConneCT portal, and Grantees hard at work connecting people to programs, providing individualized case management, supportive services, critical workforce training and job placements in a range of in-demand industries.

CareerConneCT is a unique program and partnership, created and operated by a talented group of leaders from Connecticut's workforce development boards and community-based organizations. Together, we are building a statewide, best practice, short-term workforce training systems approach to support thousands of Connecticut residents to earn industry-recognized credentials, land good jobs and earn livable wages. Our best wishes to the hundreds of CareerConneCT participants enrolled in programs right now!

Please visit the [CareerConneCT](#) page to learn more about program eligibility, available training programs, additional training paths, and how to get started on the CareerConneCT Portal.

2nd Grantee Convening

In February, more than 40 program directors and managers gathered at Tunxis Community College for the 2nd CareerConneCT Convening. The 9am-12pm event included a report-out of 1st and 2nd program quarter outcomes and a selection of participant success stories. Shannon Marinón and Nailah Abdul-Rahman from [BeadyCT](#) presented on the Student 5.0 program. Student 5.0 is a career exploration and preparation program for high school seniors in the Greater Hartford and New Britain areas that assist students with career research, college or training program enrollment, financial aid, career readiness, personal budgeting and more. Nailah discussed current collaboration efforts and opportunities for future collaboration with fellow CareerConneCT Grantees.

Guest speaker Kim Spanier from the CT Diaper Bank provided eye-opening statistics on the effect a lack of access to clean diapers can have on a family's health.



Anthony Barnett, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Workforce Strategy



Jonathan Richter, Research Analyst



(L) Tracy Ariel and (R) Karen Quesnel

Outreach at the 42nd Annual CAACE Conference

The Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education held their 42nd Annual Conference in Groton, CT in March. Director of Workforce Programs, Tracy Ariel and Program Coordinator Karen Quesnel met with dozens of interested professionals over the two-day event to discuss the exciting training opportunities available through the program.



Ofelia Ilu
Image credit: Efficiency For All

CareerConneCT Spotlight

Efficiency For All Graduate Success

Efficiency For All (EFA) has trained nearly 30 individuals to date in their M=POWER energy efficiency program, including Ofelia who completed her program in January, earning several Building Performance Institute (BPI) certifications. Ofelia made the decision to split her on-the-job training between two companies to gain more office experience. She did so well, she was offered employment at both companies and to date is one of EFA's most highly-paid graduates! Ofelia notes, "this career will allow me to help save energy, save lives, and extend the home's longevity by maximizing the lifespan of the building materials. It will improve the market value of the homes and the best part is that I will help the planet, our planet, our home."



Boone Synakom, CEO
Better Building Performance
Image credit: Efficiency For All

Employer Testimonial for Efficiency For All

Boone Synakom, CEO of Better Building Performance, LLC is happy to be working with EFA providing on-the-job training opportunities for program participants through CareerConneCT. "The Efficiency For All M=POWER program helps contractors by connecting them to workers and it is helping Connecticut residents get back to work post-pandemic," he says. "Many young people have lost direction. I can attest that this program provides direction and inspires them to keep going and never give up. I, myself, was an entry technician in 2009. Now, I own my own business and have the joy of providing employment to other Connecticut Residents. This is a win for small business, our economy, our energy stability, and our environment."



Jane Davis, CEO, Ability Beyond
Image credit: Erik Treatment/Hearst

Ability Beyond Celebrates 70 Years Serving Individuals with Disabilities

We are excited to celebrate with CareerConneCT Grantee Ability Beyond of Bethel, CT as they mark 70 years assisting people with disabilities. Congratulations to everyone at Ability Beyond for this remarkable achievement!

[Ability Beyond marks 70 years helping adults with disabilities \(ctinsider.com\)](#)

CareerConneCT Resources

CareerConneCT programs offer a wide range of services to support participants as they complete their training, earn credentials, and embark on new careers. [CareerConneCT News](#) highlights the following resources that can help Grantees stretch their supportive services dollars and promote overall awareness of assistance available for Connecticut residents in need.



The Diaper Bank of Connecticut

The Diaper Bank increases the collective power and reach of more than 700 social services organizations that help Connecticut's most vulnerable families. Learn about programs available, eligibility and how to access services: [The Diaper Bank - The Diaper Bank](#)



Connecticut Foodshare

Connecticut Foodshare's mission is "to deliver an informed and equitable response to hunger by mobilizing community partners, volunteers, and supporters." They are a member of the nationwide feeding America network of foodbanks. Visit their website to find help, locate a food pantry, and learn about programs: [Connecticut Foodshare \(foodshare.org\)](#)

CareerConneCT Data



*During Q3, a total of 414 participants were in training (between January 1 through March 31, 2023). By the end of the quarter, of the 414 in training, 334 had finished their program and of those completing, 75% are employed. The remaining participants will continue to work with their case managers and will receive supportive and job placement services.

Subscribe and Share

Has your program been in the news? Do you have an upcoming event, graduation, resource, or a success story to share? Tell us about it! Share the details in an email to OWS.CareerConneCT@ct.gov with the subject heading "Newsletter Ideas."

Share CareerConneCT News with friends and colleagues!

[Click to Subscribe](#)



Office of Workforce Strategy
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Hartford, CT 06106

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**YOU
GOT THIS**



**YOUR
FUTURE STARTS
NOW**



**IT'S
YOUR
TIME**



Q&A

CareerConneCT Team

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CT Needs YOU!



Get the skills and training necessary for high-demand, high-quality jobs with CareerConneCT!

About CareerConneCT:

- Training programs available in:
 - Information Technology (IT)
 - Healthcare
 - Transportation (CDL)
 - Infrastructure Construction
 - Manufacturing
 - Green Jobs
- Tuition fully covered
 - Supportive services available
- Receive industry-recognized credentials in as little as 5 to 12 weeks and get connected to employers ready to hire you right away!

SCAN ME



Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3GDle27> to register!
For eligibility information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3GaVmL3>.